B:-417

App. F. IX-4

Previous References.

194 3-44
(S. D. A)

File No. A 102-43

Serial Nos. 381-937, 1046

Later References.

PRESERVED

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. Three

Part B for July 44

SUBJECT

Report Re:- Shortages in the Stores in the Mazeedia buildings, Godowns.

Notes:- P1— 6.3
Corr:- P1— 11.3.

To. The D.F.S. in Mysore

S.D. 132/ A102-43-1044 dt 10.7.44

i) Directs the termination of the Services of Billcrek, measuress, peon
ii) " the Recovery of Rs 200/— from Spl. R. S.
iii) " " " " 100/— Temp. R. S.
iv) Rs 1510 — balance may be written off —

25/(2)

Rlgs
23.7.44

Report regarding Shortages observed in the Stores, in Majeedia Building Godowns.

Continuation Sheet. File No Current No. A 102 - of 63 Page.

"K" Letter no. SD/Sr-1 dated 3rd/4th January 1944.

from the Director of Civil Supplies in Mysore, Bangalore

Returning herewith 30 bags of dhall and 24 bags of rice

from the godowns in Majeedia Building,

to enable the Asst Director to place such of the stores

as were in charge of the godowns under suspension pending

investigation.

SUPPLY SECRETARIAT

1 [illegible] reported to be under investigation

No 4-1536/44 and action thereon reported will be awaited.

11/1/44

Dy Secy to Govt

Dy Secy to Govt

Dy Secy to Govt

The Director suggests the following preliminary actions being taken.

1) The Services of Bill clerk, Venkateshiah now under suspension may be terminated

2) Services of measurers, and peons now under suspension may be terminated

3) The Conduct of Sheik Hyder who took charge during Meccai's leave and who did not care to see whether one Stores was drawn either when he took charge, deserves notice and he may be made to pay Rs 100/- towards the loss

4) With regard to Mr. Meccai, who ~~clear that either~~ are of fear or other reasons, not has given a straight version and who has been negligent a sum of Rs 200/- may be recovered ~~lost~~ in view of his conduct throughout being ~~good~~ quite satisfactory and the good report about him. ~~is considered enough if he is made to pay Rs 200/-~~

The Director further proposes that the balance of over loss after deducting pension gratuities of Rs 300/- may be written off and that Mr. Meccai will be ordered to revert to ~~from~~ where his services have been borrowed being treated on ~~two~~ leaves and ~~charge~~ entitled to and the leave allowances ~~being~~ treated towards the ~~and~~ ~~forfeiture~~ from him.

For orders

It will be observed from the Director's

Sig 25/5

D 7586

Continuation Sheet. File No. / Current No. of Page.

letter that the stocks in the Majeedia Building Depot were checked by the Asst Comptroller Mr P. Narasimha Rao on the 5th of December 1943. 30 bags of dhal and 2 bags of rice were found missing by the Revenue Inspector in charge Mr Rajulla Mecci at 3 P.M. on the 30th December but he made a report of it to the Asst Director only on 31.12.43. The plea of loss by theft has been rejected both by the Police and Mr N. Rattinaraya Swami who examined the Police report and the accounts of the Depot. The loss has therefore been caused either by a systematic and deliberate removal of the bags or by issue of bags in excess by gross negligence. To cover the loss the story of theft has been put forth by the Rev Inspector. Even assuming that Mr Mecci was not criminally responsible for the loss as stated by the Director in view of his past history and connections, it is for consideration whether the recovery of Rs 200/- from Mr Mecci and Rs 100/- from Mr Sheik Hyder who was in charge during the former's absence is a sufficient punishment for this negligence which has caused a loss of Rs 1810-8-0 to Govt.

30/5 3. The story of theft has been entirely discredited by Mr Rattinaraya swamy with whom the Director agrees. Mr Mecci's Conduct in sponsoring this story (Considered quite insupportable) does not do credit to him. It is not clear why any part-

of the loss should be written off Cashier if being recovered equally from the two Revenue Inspectors concerned - Sheik Hyder & Saifulla Meerai. The other disciplinary action proposed by the Director may be adopted

Dir. Secy.) 7.SS 30/5/44.

I am unable to agree with the views taken by the D.T.P. that the mental state of the depot keeping coolies of the Res superintendent during the period that the Tamil Revenue Inspector in charge of the depot (Saifulla Meerai) was on leave on account of his father's death (24th to 27th Dec. '43), should exempt the Inspr. Meerai went on leave on the 24th Dec. without handing over formal charge to Syed Hyder, the man in charge of the Kanniveeran Temple Choultry godown, who had been placed in charge of his duties. Meerai before the keys with the depot Clerk, Tankaswami, a new man first taken into Service on 2.12.43 & ~~was~~ handed as his clerk to this Majestic Building godown on 8.12.43. Syed Hyder came to the depot only on the 27th Dec when he took the keys from Tankaswami and issued some bags of rice & ghee. On the 28th morning - Meerai returned to duty and took charge from Syed Hyder. Even when things were taken over & the stock was not checked. Tankaswami was, therefore, in sole charge of the depot on the 24th, 25th & 26th Dec., 1943. Curiously enough, the Measurer, Ananda, who - Meerai may - had deputed to keep watch at the depot at ~~night~~ night, was also on leave on the 26th & 27th Dec., leaving the ...

D 7586

Continuation Sheet. File No. / Current No. of Page.

apparently granted by himself or Venkatesiah, as Lyes Sayeb says he did not grant it! As there was, however, no bakshees during these two days, Venkatesiah, on his own authority, handed over the key of the lock of the outer gate of the building to the owner, Abdul Khalak, as the latter was anxious about the safety of his things kept in the verandah in the inner quadrangle during these days there was also no Police watch, for, though the City Supdt of Police is said to have instructed his Head Constable on 20.12.43 to forward a watch, no action was taken.

All these circumstances have been with regard to Venkatesiah, brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Police, but he has not taken any steps in the matter. The Commissioner ordered a discovered the loss, he was at liberty to prosecute a Court challan to come up his own negligence. Both the Lyes Sayeb have been very careless. However, I think the punishment suggested by the D.I.G.P. is appropriate and his proposals may be approved. The Police should do well to hand over Venkatesiah to the owner of the premises to save if they advise any sudden offence. The S.P.C. may also be requested to take necessary action for non-observance of Police watch in spite of the orders of the City Supdt. The amount to be written off is (Rs 1510-8-0 — Rs 3 as) = Rs 1510-8-0. Cr 14/6 Mo

Mins. Sanc. Hon. H. Sec.

The loss proposed to be written

FINANCIAL SECRETARY 6412 1944 GOVT OF MYSORE

Continuation Sheet. File No. / Current No. of Page.

if it is necessary, but I believe that there is no way of making a record every portion of it from the dismissed officials

FM. 1/6 24/6 Ce 16/6 Ms

8817

OFFICE OF THE ... FOR INDUSTRIES & SUPPLY
JUN 16 1944
No. 8066

25/6 For Secretary Ce 26/6 Ms

Secretary)

26/6 Ms Ce 28/6 Ms

Draft letter to the Director of I.S. is forwarded herewith for Secretary's signature

Secretary) 28/6.

Ce 29/6 Ms

Secretary 30/6

Enclosed 1) Letter no. SB 132/A102-43 dated 10.7.44 to the D.G.S. directing that among other things the services of the Bill clerk, messengers & peons be terminated, Rs. 1510-8-0 be written off the accounts

2) Memo nos. SB 133-135 forwarding copies of the above to the I.G.P. Comptroller & Auditor General & Accounts Officer

A102-43-381

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

Tele gram / phone

OFFICE FO

the Director of Civil Supplies
in Mysore, Bangalore.

No. SD/E2-1.
Encls. 1

Date 3rd January 1944.

4.

GOV OF ... 6. JAN. 1944 ... G...

SECRETARIAT
To
8 JAN 1944
D. No 4536/43

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department, (Supplies),
BANGALORE.

Sir,

In enclosing herewith a copy of report No.AD.2897/43-44 dated 2nd January 1944 from the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Depots), Bangalore, together with copies of enclosures referred to therein, reporting that the Special Revenue Inspector in charge of Majeedia Building godowns reported to him on 31-12-1943 that, he detected 30 bags of dhall and 24 bags of rice missing from a total stock of 220 bags of dhall and 51 bags of rice stored in the godowns and that he suspects it to be a case of theft, I have the honour to state that I have advised the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Depots), Bangalore to place such of the staff that are in charge of the godowns in Majeedia Building, whose neglect has caused this theft being made possible, under suspension pending enquiry, and also have addressed the Inspector General of Police to take suitable action against the Sub Inspector of Police who failed to post guards for the night watch of the said godowns despite definite instructions of the City Superintendent of Police that two police constables should be deputed for night watch at all our godowns. As the case is reported to be under investigation, a further report will be submitted for the information of Government when the investigations are complete.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

B Seshanandan
3/1
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL SUPPLIES.

BSG.

10

Before the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies.

Statement of Mr. Safiulla Meccai; Special Revenue Inspector.

I have been working as Special Revenue Inspector since Octr.43. I was first in charge of Naranarayana Choultry and since 19-11-43 I have been placed in charge of Majeedia Building. The owner of Majeedia Building is one Mr.Abdul Khalak, Timber merchant. After four days of casual leave from 24th to 27th (both days inclusive) I came back to duty on 28th. On 28th itself I had seen the stocks. I had no reason to suspect anything. I received a memo from the Assistant Director that the stocks would be checked in detail on 31st. So I went to Majeedia Building on 30th evening to check the stocks in detail at about 3 p.m. The seal and the lock were intact and on going inside began to check the several consignments. When I took up the checking of the bags of dall, I saw that the bags were irregularly placed and the vertical height was somewhat short. This was very suspicious. On counting all the dall bags, I found that there were only 190 bags as against 220 bags which were stocked on 21-11-43. I checked the consignment of Rice from Kadur received on 21-11-43 and there were only 27 bags as against 51 bags and 24 bags were short. I got perturbed on observing these serious shortages. It was nearly 8 p.m. by that time. I wanted to make sure by counting the bags once again whether the dall and rice bags had been mixed up with other consignements the next morning. So I locked and sealed the choultry and went home. I came back again on 31st morning at 8-30 a.m. and counted the dall and rice bags in detail and found that there were only 190 bags of dall and 27 bags of rice and no more bags of these articles. So I felt sure that there must have been a theft of 30 bags of dall and 24 bags of rice. There are three doors to this godown. The central one used to be locked while the other two were bolted from inside. There are ventilators in the walls at a height of about ten feet above the ground level. I felt that there was the possibility of some one getting inside through the ventilator and opening one of the two doors or the ends from inside so that the bags could be removed. On examining the ventilators, I found that the ventilator in one of them on the eastern side was bent and there were sprinklings of some dall and rice on the outside of the eastern door. Then I reported the matter to the Sheristedar who had come to that choultry at about 9 a.m. I gave the report of the occurence to the office in the afternoon at about 3 p.m. on 31-12-1943.

One Ananda measurer was deputed to sleep at this building during nights. I came to know that the Police men also were deputed to keep night watch at the Revenue Inspectors' meeting on 21st. But so far no police men have come to keep watch near the choultry either during day or night. I have intimated this to the office before I went on leave.

Peon Ananda was stated to be on leave on 25th and 26th. He said that on these days, the owner had locked the main outer door of the building from outside. The owner also admitted before me that the building was locked by him since there were some articles of furniture and wooden things in the verandah inside.

Read over and found correct.
(Sd) Safulla Meccai.
spl.R.I. 1-1-44.

Before me.
(Sd) T.Rangamallian.
Asst.Director of Civil Supplies,
Depot Section. 1-1-1944.

-Copy-

Report dated 31-12-43 from Safiulla Meccai, Special Revenue Inspector in charge of Naranarayana Choultry and Majeedia Buildings.

I beg to state that in Majeedia Buildings theft has been committed of 30 bags of Tur dhall and 24 bags of Kadur rice. The Godown was opened by me on 30-12-43 at 3 p.m. to check the stock. I got suspicious when my sight fell on the irregularly piled bags of dhall. I counted the whole stock, and found 30 bags of dhall and 24 bags of Kadur rice were missing. Entrance might have been effected into the building through a ventilator and opening the door situated on the eastern side. Lock cannot be locked from outside to this door. There was no watch of Policeman. This may kindly be treated very important and urgent and inspection of the spot may kindly be made.

--Copy--

Letter No.AD.2897/43-44 dated 2nd January 1944 from the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Depot Section), Bangalore, to the Director of Civil Supplies in Mysore, Bangalore.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the report submitted by Mr.Safiulla Meccai, Special Revenue Inspector in charge of Majeedia Building Godown on 31-12-1943. It is stated therein that when he checked the stocks on 30-12-43, he found that 30 bags of Dhall and 24 bags of Rice were missing. As against 220 bags of Dhall and 51 bags of Rice, only 190 bags of Dhall and 27 bags of Rice were reported to have been found. The matter has been intimated to the Police at the Central Police Station and they are investigating the case.

The statement of Mr.Meccai has been recorded by me and is submitted herewith for favour of perusal. He states that on 30-12-1943, when he went to the Building to check the stocks as I had issued instructions that all the stocks would be checked in detail on 31-12-1943, the lock and the seal were intact, that the Dhall bags were irregularly heaped which aroused suspicion and that the only possible way for the removal of bags is for someone getting inside the building through a ventilator and opening one of the doors from inside through which the bags could be removed. There are no signs of damage to the building. The windows, doors, and walls are all intact. There are 3 doors and 6 windows. The central door used to be locked, the other two doors being bolted from inside against which bags were heaped. As stated by the Revenue Inspector, a man could get inside the building through a ventilator.

This Revenue Inspector was on casual leave on 24, 25, 26 and 27th December and one Mr.Syed Hyder in charge of Kasi Visweshwara Temple was placed in charge, then. On 27th, the latter has issued 208 bags of Ragi and 40 bags of Jola and he has not issued any Rice or dhall.

The Revenue Inspectors were strictly told at the meeting of the Revenue Inspectors held by me on 21st that they must see that one of the measurers should sleep near the building in addition to the Police that would be deputed to keep night watch. In this connection, on my requisition for Police watch at all our Godowns, the City Superintendent of Police had issued instructions on 20-12-1943, that two constables should be deputed for night watch at all our Godowns including Majeedia Building.

The Revenue Inspector says that one Ananda, measurer was asked to sleep near the building, but that he was on leave on 25th and 26th. It is not clear who granted him leave on these dates since Mr.Meccai was on leave during these days. Mr.Syed Hyder told me that he had not given him leave. I could not examine Ananda yesterday as he had been taken to the Police Station.

The Revenue Inspector states that so far Police did not turn up for keeping watch near the building. When I asked the Sub Inspector Mr.Ramaswamy why he did not post the Police for night watch, he said he had not posted them till 31st and that men were not available. This excuse cannot be accepted since no additional men were required to carry out the instructions of the District Superintendent of Police, but it was only a rearrangement of the already sanctioned constables for the purpose. If night watch by the Police had been arranged, there would have been no possibility of theft as could be suspected now. The bags of Dhall and Rice were counted on 1-1-1944 and there were 27 bags of Rice and 190 bags of Dhall in addition to the sweepings of 48½ seers of Rice and 24½ seersof Dhall.

The result of the further Police investigation will be reported in due course.

" COPY "

p.t.o.

Appendix F. G.—1]

SUBJECT Re: the theft of 30 bags of dhal and 24 bags of rice in majestic Bulking godown, Bangalore city.

Despatched 24/3

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the 194 .

Date of issue 24. 3. 44.

Signed by Mr. K. Swaminathan

List of enclosures.....

Copied by.....

Examined by.....

Section A

File No. 102-43

Serial No.

No. S.D. 6468

To

The Dr of Cs.

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to your letter no SD/E+ dated 3/4th Jan 44 on the above subject and to request to be informed when the further report may be expected to be received

Yours etc

24/3.

for Secy to Govt
Dev dept (Supplies)

A 102-43-937.

Government of Mysore.

No. E2.90/43-44 Office of the Director of Food Supplies in Mysore,
Bangalore, Dated, 19th May 1944.

To

The Secretary to Government of Mysore,
Development Department (Supplies),
Bangalore.

Sir,

In continuation of my No. E2.1 of 4th January 1944, regarding the theft of 30 bags of dhal and 24 seers of rice from Majeedia Building godown near City Market, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the further report No.A.D.4063/43-44 dated 17th March 1944 received from the Assistant Director of Food Supplies, Depot Section for favour of information of Government. A copy of the report of the Sub Inspector of Police, Crime Branch who investigated the case of theft received by the Assistant Director of in this connection is also enclosed for favour of perusal. Under my instructions Mr. N. Puttarangaswamy looked into the Police investigation records and the accounts of this depot and he states as follows.

2. The consignment of 220 bags of dhal out of which 30 bags are now missing was received in this depot on 21st November 1943 and no issues are seen to have been made out of this consignment till 30-12-43, the date on which the missing of the 30 bags was discovered by the Revenue Inspector in charge of this depot. The consignment of 152 bags of Kadur rice of which 24 bags were found to be missing on 30-12-1943 was also received in this depot on 21-11-1943 the same day that the consignment of dhal was received. It is significant that the alleged theft should have taken place from consignments received on one and the same day. No issues of Kadur rice belonging to this consignment were made till 13th December 1943 and 101 bags of this rice were issued as noted in the margin till 18-12-43

13-12-43 ...	10 bags	leaving a balance of 51 bags out of the
14-12-43 ...	12 bags	
15-12-43 ...	13 bags	consignment on that day. According to the
16-12-43 ...	3 bags	
18-12-43 ...	63 bags	statement of Mr. Safiulla Meccai, (the
Total.	101 bags	Revenue Inspector in charge of this godown,

before

before the Police Jamedar on the evening of 31-12-1943 he checked the stock on 28-12-1943 evening and found the same to be correct and the missing of the bags was noticed by him on 30-12-1943 and his report was made on 31-12-1943. The theft according to the Revenue Inspector has taken place on the night of 29-12-1943 in the manner reported by the Assistant Director, Depot Section, in his letter dated 17-3-1944 referred to above.

3 The theft theory however is upset even at the outset in the mahazar recorded by the Police at the time the complaint was preferred on 31-12-43. It is clearly noted in the mahazar that cobwebs and dust in the doors, passages and the ventilator through which the supposed thief is said to have gained ingress were found intact and there were no foot prints or other impressions to indicate either ingress or egress from the store room on this route as indicated by the Revenue Inspector. Mr. Puttarangaswamy it seems questioned the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore City who visited the scene of occurrence at the time the theft was reported and the latter has said that the facts noted above regarding cobwebs, dust etc., not being interfered with stated in the mahazar is correct and that the Assistant Superintendent of Police also pointed out these things personally at the time of to Mr. Safiulla Meccai.

4. Moreover the door through which bags are supposed to have been taken out after gaining entry into the godown through the ventilator could not be opened as bags had been piled up immediately behind the door and the version that these bags were removed and repiled in the same place after the stolen bags were taken out is far-fetched and cannot be believed. Moreover according to the records the outer door leading to Shantappa's lane which opens into the open yard in front of the verandah of the godown was locked on 29th night in the same manner as it was being locked every night and this lock was in tact. Therefore the only way the bags could have been removed is through a shop situated back-door leading into the open yard in front

of

of the godown which is also a remote possibility. But in view of the fact that ingress into the godown through the ventilator on the 29th night is not true as proved by the mahazar recorded by the Police on the 31st evening, Mr. Puttarangaswamy opines that theft on the 29th night by any outsider in the manner stated by the Revenue Inspector is not true and has not occurred.. This view is further substantiated from the fact that the Revenue Inspector has exhibited extra zeal in trying to prove that the theft has taken place on the 29th night only in the manner stated by him. To this end Mr. Zahir Meccai who is the brother-in-law of the Revenue Inspector has furnished information that Abdul Kareem, his friend saw at 2 A.M. on the night of 28th or 29-12-43 one Abbas and two others loading some small bags in a jutka from the pial of the bakery shop situated in Shantappa's lane in front of the Majeedia Buildings godown. This information on verification by the Police was found to be false..

5 It may also be mentioned that in passing the statements of the complainant as recorded does not mention anything about the manner in which the alleged theft was supposed to have been committed and it is only from the mahazar that this could be inferred. ~~Also~~ Bond- the mahazar does not support this.

6 Mr. Puttarangaswamy further states that Mr. Safiulla Meccai was on leave from 24th to 27th both days inclusive on account of his father's death and that on 24-12-1943 150 bags of ragi were issued and that according to the statement of the bill-clerk before the Police these bags were issued by Mr. Safiulla Meccai before he went on leave. According to the stock statement prepared for that day 150 bags of ragi have been issued from this depot and according to the delivery note this ragi is issued to Messrs. Haji Habib Haji Peer Mohamed Sait for for Civil and Military station. But Venkatappa, clerk of Messrs. Haji Habib Haji Peer Mohamed who has taken delivery of these bags has stated before the Police that out of these 150 bags of Ragi 80 were issued from Naranarayana Choultry and only 70 were issued from Mazeedia buildings

buildings godown and as the Revenue Inspector was in a hurry, he placed 70 bags of ragi outside in the verandah of the godown asking him to cart the bags and that he arranged to cart them after the bags from Naranarayana choultry were carted. From the accounts submitted it is however seen that 150 bags are shown as having been issued from this godown in Masjeedia buildings. If Venkatappa is correct the stock balance should have been adjusted and the question as to how the stock balances in Masjeedia buildings and Naranarayana choultry were adjusted needs investigation.

7 The bill clerk Keshaviah who was employed as clerk on 2-12-1943 has taken charge as bill clerk of this godown on 5-12-1943 and he was left in sole charge of this godown on 24th, 25th and 26th December 1943. On 27th December 1943 Mr. J. Sheik Hyder who is the Revenue Inspector in charge of Kasi Viswesvara temple choultry godown took the keys from the bill clerk and on that day he issued 167 bags and 30 seers of ragi and 40 bags of Jola were issued by him, to merchants of Civil and Military Station from this godown. Mr. Puttarangaswamy opines that the statement of Mr. Safiulla Meccai that he checked the stocks in the godown on his return from leave on 28th evening, is false on the following grounds. The servants employed in this depot and the bill clerk have stated before the police that generally stocks were not being checked except when there was any inspection by any officer and that the the stocks were not checked by the Revenue Inspector on the 28th December Mr. Sheik Hyder who was questioned by Mr. Puttarangaswamy said that he did not check the stock on 27th when he took the keys from the bill clerk and even after issuing Ragi and Jola, he did not check the balance of stock in the godown. According to him the stock was not checked even by Mr. Safiulla Meccai, the next day when the latter took charge from him on his return from leave. Whether the check of the stock on 30-12-1943 was in view of the fact that Mr. Rangamalliah told him that he would inspect his godown on 31-12-1943 or to prepare the theft theory for the shortages of which the staff was perhaps aware cannot be stated. I am inclined to think the latter would be more correct. The last general checking was on 5-12-1943 when Mr. P. Narasimhachar,

Assistant

Assistant Comptroller checked the stocks in the godown. The theft of dhall and rice bags in the godown has therefore taken place between 6-12-1943 and 30-12-1943 and no outsider has committed the theft of these bags from this godown in the circumstances detailed above.

8 I agree with Mr. Puttarangaswamy that the theft of dhal and rice bags from this godown has not taken place on the 29th night in the manner stated by Mr. Safiulla Meccai and that the loss of the bags has occurred only between 5-12-1943 and 30-12-1943 and it is most ~~a~~ likely that there may have been no theft by an outsider at all. The theft theory may have been really advanced to cover shortages which would undoubtedly have been discovered by Mr. Ranga malliah at the time of his checking on the 31st. The fact that Mr. Meccai did not report the theft which according to him took place on the 29th night till the 31st lends also weight to this theory. The question now is who is to be held responsible for this and for the resultant loss to Government.

9 Mr. Safiulla Meccai is considered as an honest officer and not addicted to bad ways. He is also well connected being, I understand, related to the late Mr. Zahiruddin Meccai. I do not ~~want~~ therefore ~~to associate him with~~ much he is responsible criminally for this loss. this. There is no doubt however that he has been grossly negligent and has not been straightforward in the complaint he preferred to the Police or in the subsequent investigations.

10 I personally feel that these bags have been done away with, during the period Mr. Meccai was on leave, advantage being taken of the fact that the Bill clerk Venkateshiah was new and Sheik Hyder who was the Revenue Inspector and who was placed in charge did not take charge for two days and then came only on the third day and did not check the stocks and merely handed over the keys to Mr. Meccai.

11 This godown is in a very congested area and the locality contains a number of persons who would easily take advantage of such a situation and would perhaps gladly assist in such ventures.

My

My suspicion therefore is very strong against the servants who either taking advantage of the Bill clerk being new or perhaps with his connivance have done away with the grains.

12. The Police have been unable to trace any clue especially as the properties are not identifiable once the grains are taken out from the bags.

13. The total loss involved is Rs.1,010-8-0 and considering that this has been made possible by the negligence of the staff, I could suggest the following disciplinary action being taken:

1. The services of Bill clerk, Venkateshiah now under suspension may be terminated.

2. Services of the measurers, and peons now under suspension may be terminated.

3. The conduct of Sheik Hyder who took charge during Peccai's leave and who did not care to see whether the stock was all right either when he took charge or when he handed over charge, deserves, I think notice and he may be made to pay Rs.100/- towards the loss.

4. With regard to Mr. Peccai, it is clear that either out of fear or other reasons, he has not given a straight version, but in view of his conduct throughout being quite satisfactory and the good reports about him it would be enough if he is made to pay Rs.200/-.

The balance of the loss after deducting these recoveries of Rs.300/- in all may kindly be ordered to be written off. Mr.Peccai will be ordered to revert to the department from which his services had been borrowed and the period of suspension will be treated as such leave to which he may be deem entitled to, the leave allowances being appropriated towards the amount to be recovered from him.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

B. Nagalavenda Rao
Director of Food Supplies. 16/5

VAR.L.

Letter No.A.D.4063/43-44 dated 11th March 1944, from the Assistant Director of Food Supplies, (Depot Section), Bangalore, to the Director of Food Supplies in Mysore, Bangalore.

With reference to your No.E2.90.C.204 dated 1-2-1944 calling for a final report regarding the theft in Majeedia Building Godown, I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of the report received from the Sub Inspector in charge of the Central Police Station, who has conducted the investigation of this case. I invite kind reference to my letter No.AD. 2897/43-44 dated 2-1-1944 and the statement of Mr.Meccai, Special Revenue Inspector, enclosed therein.

The Sub Inspector reports that, though all possible efforts are being made to bring the case into detection, there are grounds to suspect the truth of the alleged occurrance as given out by the Special Revenue Inspector, which is as follows:-

Entrance into the building must have been gained through one of the ventilators, bags that were piled behind the door below the ventilator removed and the door opened and the bags of rice and dhall in question must have been removed through that door and after repiling the bags that had been removed from behind the door, the culprits must have effected their escape through the same ventilator.

The Sub Inspector states that this version is very much doubtful, that it is a busy locality and there are shops adjoining this building and that it is not possible to remove all the bags in one night. He ultimately says that the Revenue Inspector is anxious to bring forth such theories to give a colour of reality for the occurrence and it is suspected that either the bags are given away in excess or the accounts maintained are not true.

The fact that 220 bags of dhall and 152 bags of rice were received into the Majeedia building on 21-11-1943 cannot be doubted for the following reasons. First, Mr.Meccai himself has made receipt entries in his stock ledger on this day and recorded that 220 bags of dhall and 152 bags of rice were received. Secondly on 5-12-1943, Mr.P.S.Narasimhachar, who has checked the stocks in this godown has noted in his inspection report that 220 bags of dhall and 152 bags of rice were found in this godown. This establishes beyond doubt that these consignments of rice and dhall were received into this godown.

Further no dhall has been released from this godown during the month of December 1943 and only 101 bags inclusive of 7 bags to make up shortages have been released between the 13th November and 1st December. Subsequent to 18th December, no releases of either dhall or rice have been made. So how a shortage of 30 bags of dhall and 24 bags of rice could occur in the godown has to be examined. There are only two possibilities for the missing of the bags and they are:-firstly the bags could have been removed by some persons by getting in through the ventilator as stated by the Revenue Inspector or secondly, the bags might have been removed by the person in charge of the godown or allowed to be removed by others with the connivance of the godown official with a fraudulent intention.

The Police say that there are grounds to suspect that the theft as in the first case may have occurred and the reasons for that are (i) that the godown is located in a busy locality surrounded by shops, (ii) that it is not possible to remove so many bags in one night, (iii) that the culprit would not take so much trouble to escape through the ventilator after bolting from inside and arranging the other bags behind the door as it was before. But there are some other factors which have to be taken into consideration for examining the possibility of theft.

Though it is near the City Market, the entrance to the godown is in a small lane and the godown is surrounded by petty shops, small bakeries and hotels where rowdies and persons of doubtful character have got free access to meet. The ventilator admits of a man getting inside through it and instead of all the 54 bags being removed in one night, they might have been removed on 3 or 4 nights so as not to arouse suspicion; For the very same reason, the possibility of the culprits taking all precautions and getting out through the ventilator after allowing the bags to be removed, which is not after all difficult. There is one other significant factor and that is the Bill Clerk had given the key of the lock of the outer gate to the owner since the peon was on leave, and since the owner complained that there was nobody to look after his things that were kept in the verandah in the inside quadrangle. From the statement of the Bill Clerk made before the Sub Inspector, the owner is stated to have told him that the key would be left in the Baker's shop adjoining. The Bill Clerk did not take my permission or any other officer's for giving the key to the owner.

If any persons got in by opening the outer gate and bolted if from inside, they could remain there for considerable time without attracting the attention of anybody and after removing them from inside could manage to take away 15 or 20 bags at a time after taking all precautions as stated before; so as not to arouse suspicion. It is unfortunate that for some days at the time of this occurrence neigher the godown peon nor the Police kept watch at the godown during the night, though fully suspecting this locality I had given strict instructions to the Revenue Inspector to see that a peon must be made to sleep near the godown during the nights and requested the City Superintendent of Police to issue orders for posting Police near this and other godowns which he was good enough to issue on 20-12-1943 alone. If eigher of these were present at the godown keeping watch during night, there could have been absolutelyno possibility of suspecting the occurrence of any theft.

Now the other possibility is the fradulent removal of these bags by the official in charge of the godown. The Revenue Inspector Mr.Meccai went away on casual leave from 24th and though Mr.Syed Hyder in charge of Kasi Visveswara Temple was placed in charge, he handed over the keys to the Bill Clerk Venkateshiah. This Bill Clerk handed over the keys to Syed Hyder on 27th. The Bill Clerk has not effected any releases and Mr.Syed Hyder has issued 208 bags of ragi and 40 bags of jola on that date. Mr.Meccai returned to duty on 28th and has stated before the Police Officer that he checked the stocks and found everything correct. He has also stated before me that he had no reason to suspect anything. In any case, when he returned from leave, it was his duty to have checked the stocks in detail and satisfied himself that they tallied with the balances as shown in the Daily Stock Statement and the Stock Ledger. He found out the shortage of these bags on 30th evening which he made sure on 31st. Now the question is as to who could have removed or allowed the bags to be removed fraudulently. Eigher it must be Mr. Meccai or the Bill Clerk Venkateshiah or Mr. Syed Hyder. Since Mr. Meccai has not formally handed over charge to Mr.Syed Hyder and has admitted that everything was correct after his return from leve, the responsibility cannot be be fixed on either the Bill Clerk or Mr.Syed Hyder. But whether any of these two could dare attempt to do it is a matter that has to be considered, when there was every fear or probability

of its being detected when the permanent Revenue Inspector returned to his duty and was likely to check the stock in the usual course.

As regards Mr.Meccai himself, it is unlikely that he would have connived at the fraudulent removal of these bags since later on he himself would have to account for them. Moreover, the number of bags involved is large costing Rs. 1,836/- and their removal would be noticed by the peons also working there. Bill Clerk Venkateshaiya was appointed only very recently and it is difficult to expect that he would attempt at such an action.

The question is as to which of the two possibilities could have happened - Either of the two could be possible and the first cannot be wholly ruled out as suggested by the Police. It is however clear that Mr. Meccai has given room for the following omissions:- (i) He should have formally handed over charge of Mr.Syed Hyder and not given away the keys to the Bill Clerk, (ii) He should have checked the stocks in detail after he returned from leave, (iii) He should have made pucca arrangements for night watch for the godown when he went on leave. For such negligence, it is necessary and desirable that he should be made to pay for a portion of the loss that is likely to accrue to Government. This will also serve as a warning and deterrent to other Revenue Inspectors and is sure to make them more careful and vigilant. I think it will meet the requirements if a sum of Rs. 200/- is ordered to be recovered from the pay of Mr. Meccai in instalments of Rs. 10/- per month.

The responsibility of the Police Officer who did not give effect to the instructions of the City Superintendent of Police to depute Police watch for the night at this godown among other godowns, which could have effectively kept out any possibility of any such theft deserves also to be suitably fixed.

"Copy"

For Director of Food Supplies.

BSG.

Reference: No.AD.2674/43-44 dated 26-1-1944 from the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Depot Section,) regarding progress in the investigation of the case relating to the shortage in rice and dhall bags in Majeedia Buildings.

Submitted:-

Beg to report that on 31-12-1943 on the statement of Mr.Safiulla Meccai, Revenue Inspector, a case for Sec. 380 I.P.C. was taken on the file of this station C.S.No.107/43-44. Subsequently Sec. 457 I.P.C.was also added since Mr. Meccai said that entrance had taken place during the night through the ventilator.

In this case the complainant, Bill Clerk Venkatasiya, the three peons have all been questioned in detail. It was ascertained that there was no regular counting of bags every day at the end of the business and even on 28-12-1943 Mr. Safiulla Meccai did not arrange the actual counting of bags when he took charge from Mr. Hyder on return from leave. Though all possible efforts are being made to bring the case into detection, there are grounds to suspect the truth of the alleged occurance as given out by the complainant Mr. Safiulla Meccai. The manner the theft is alleged is that entrance was gained through the ventilator and bags that were piled behind the door (not the main door that was locked) were removed and the rice and dhall bags were selected and removed through this door and afterwards the bags that had been removed from behind the door were repiled and the culprits made their escape through the same ventilator. It is hard to believe why the culprits should take so much pains to repile the bags that were behind the door. Immediate inspection of the spot did not disclose any signs of the alleged occurance. A mahazar was drawn to that effect. The dust and cobwebs werein tact./ It is a busy locality and there are shops adjoining the building and the inhabitants say that they would have surely heard any sound or got any information, however dead of night the occurance was alleged. It is not possible to remove all the bags in one night.

Verification was made about the information given by one Abdul Kareem No. 34, Benkinawab Street as per reference dated 9-1-1944 from the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Depot Section.) He does not appear to be a true witness. His statement was that on or about the alleged date of occurrance he saw one Abbas and 2 others loading small bags in a Jatka at about 2 P.M. and the next evening while he was seated

in the hotel of one Dadumia at Kumbarpet. This Abbas brought rice bags and offered it for sale to Dadamia, who refused to buy and this information he gave to Mr. Zahir Meccai at the Rationing Officer, who happens to be brotherinlaw of the complainant. Enquiries made by questinging Abbas, the hotel keeper and others disclosed that it was about 2 months prior to the alleged date of occurrance that Abbas had taken a rice bag to Dadamia f disposal and not at all on or about the alleged date of occurrance. Abbas explains that he was dealing in oranges and as such he had occasions to go to Coorg and he managed to bring a bag full of rice in a lorry and since he needed the amount he offered it to Dadamia and on his refusal to buy he took it back andmade use of it for himself. At present he is not running a house but he is put up in the Renowned Restaurant. On 3-2-44, Mr. Meccai brought another by name Ahammadjan to corroborate the above Abdul Kareem to the effect that he also saw the three people loading bags in a Jutka. His statement was that it was about 4 or 5 days prior to the last date of Muhurram (7-1-44) and the bags were brought from Majidia Buildings (main gate.) Abdul Kareem said that they were brought from the trunk shop attached to the building. On questinging why he came forth with this information so late, he said that he had gone away to some place perhaps Hosur on picnic party and stayed there for about 15 days and he returned recently. He did not know the name of any person who had accompanied him to Hosur and he said they were military people. This Ameerjan is a gambler and very recently he was fined Rs. 3/- for having joined in a gambling den in Kumbarpet.

It is suspected that the complainant is anxious to bring forth such theories to give a colour of reality for the occurrance. It is suspected that either the bags are given away in excess or the accounts maintained are not true.

Sd. Sundarram.

S. I. of police.

Central Police Station.

"Copy"

For Director of Food Supplies.

BSG

Appendix F. G.—1]

SUBJECT Shortages of rice and dhal observed in the stores in Majeedia Buildings godowns.

R. 10/7/44
TYPED 6/7/44

Dispatched

Diary No. of letter replied to

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

the *194* .

Date of issue 10.7.44

Signed by Mrs S Swaminathan

List of enclosures

Copied by

Examined by

Section A

File No. 102-43-

Serial No. 1044

No. S 132

To

The Director of Food Supplies
in Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.E2-90/43-44, dated, the 19th May, 1944, forwarding a report regarding the alleged theft of 30 bags of dhal and 24 bags of rice in the stores in the Majeedia Buildings godowns, with your recommendations regarding the action to be taken against the staff responsible for the loss ~~caused on account of shortages~~, I am directed to state as follows:-

1. The services of the Bill Clerk, Venkateshiah and of the measurers and peons now under suspension may be terminated.

2. A sum of Rs.200/- may be recovered from Mr. Safiulla Mecci, the Special Revenue Inspector who was in charge of the godown.

p.t.o.

WD 04161—GPB—60,000—24-10-41

CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

No. S.S. 32 /A.102-43- General and Revenue Secretariat,

Dated Bangalore, 10th July, *19* 44.

FROM

The Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.
Development Deptt.
(Supplies)

To

The Director of Food Supplies in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

Shortages of rice and dhal observed in the stores in Majeedia Buildings godowns.

With reference to your letter No.E2-90/43-44, dated, the 19th May, 1944, forwarding a report regarding the alleged theft of 30 bags of dhal and 24 bags of rice in the stores in the Majeedia Building godown, with your recommendations regarding the action to be taken against the staff responsible for the loss, I am directed to state as follows:-

1. The services of the Bill Clerk, Venkateshiah and of the measurers and peons now under suspension may be terminated.

2. A sum of Rs.200/- (Rs. Two hundred) may be recovered from Mr. Safiulla Mecci, the Special Revenue Inspector who was in charge of the godown.

3. Another sum of Rs.100/- may be recovered from Mr.Syed Hyder, Revenue Inspector, who was in temporary charge of the godown during Mr. Mecci's absence on leave.

4. The balance of the value of foodstuffs lost, viz., Rs.1510-8-0 may be written off the accounts.

5. The Inspector-General of Police may be requested to take suitable action against the Sub Inspector of Police concerned for failure to post a police guard for the night watch. He may also be requested to arrange for a watch being kept over Venkateshiah the Bill Clerk, and the menials employed in the godown at the time of the alleged theft to see if they show signs of sudden affluence, as strong suspicion rests on them.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(sd) C. E. Noronha,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.
(Supplies)

KRG.5.

Memo No. SD. 33-35 Dated: 10th July, 1944.

Copy of the above is forwarded with compliments to:-

1. The Inspector-General of Police in Mysore, Bangalore.
2. The Comptroller to the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.
3. Copy to the Auditor & Accounting Officer, Food Supplies.

(O/c.) 10/7

Secretary to Government,
Development Deptt.(Supplies)